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Steven, Robert

From: Ervin, Clark K
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2002 6:52 PM
To: OIG-Venezuela
Subject: FW: Venezuela & USAID

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-----Original Message-----

From: Carroll, Alfred
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2002 4:37 PM
To: Ervin, Clark K; Peterson, Robert; Topping, Linda
Cc: Yorkman, Patricia; Jurison, Alfred
Subject: Venezuela & USAID

WHA Press Guidance
July 31, 2002

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 11 MAY 2006 200304421

Venezuela: U.S. Support for Democracy

Question: What will USAID's new democracy promotion office be doing in Venezuela?

A: THE OFFICE WILL SUPPORT U.S. POLICY TO FOSTER DIALOGUE, STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA. MR. DAVID TAYLOR, THE DIRECTOR OF USAID IS CURRENTLY IN VENEZUELA TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THIS POLICY.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, I WOULD REFER YOU TO USAID.

Question: Doesn't this seem intrusive?

WITH OUR HEMISPHERIC PARTNERS, WE HAVE LONG PROMOTED DEMOCRACY IN VENEZUELA AND OFFERED OUR ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING DIALOGUE AND PROMOTING NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERIC

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COMMUNITY, THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, HAS OFFERED TO ASSIST VENEZUALANS IN THIS REGARD.

OUR DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE IS OFFERED IN THE SPIRIT OF SUPPORT AND CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA. THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE WILL BE INCLUSIVE AND REACH OUT TO THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF VENEZUELAN SOCIETY.

Question: Does this imply that the U.S. government thinks the situation in Venezuela is on the brink of significant deterioration?

AS VENEZUELA'S SITUATION HAS EVOLVED OVER THE PAST MONTHS, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN WITH THE SITUATION THERE, URGED DIALOGUE AND ENCOURAGED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO PRESERVE THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY.

THIS IS NOT A CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATION. USAID WORKS AROUND THE WORLD IN A VARIETY OF POLITICAL SETTINGS AND OFFERS A RANGE OF TOOLS AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO HELP COUNTRIES FULLY REALIZE THEIR DEMOCRATIC POTENTIAL.

IT TAILORS PROGRAMMING IN A MANNER APPROPRIATE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WILL DO SO IN THE CASE OF VENEZUELA

Question: What other democracy programs does the U.S. government operate in Venezuela?

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY RECEIVES U.S. FUNDING FOR ITS ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THAT ORGANIZATION FOR DETAILS.

Background: OTI will make available through a small grants program approximately \$2.5 million to local Venezuelan organizations that are involved in the effort to promote national dialogue and strengthen democratic institutions. Grants will be in the \$10,000 - \$50,000 range and will be in-kind - through purchases of equipment, supplies and organizational requirements, rather than direct cash allocations. No grants have been approved, and no specific groups have been selected to date.